

COMMENCEMENT BAY NRDA RESTORATION

Fact Sheet MWE-1

Middle Waterway - City Project 1

Working Draft February 19, 1998

MIDDLE WATERWAY ESTUARINE RESTORATION PROJECT

VISION: The City of Tacoma will develop, as part of their Commencement Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment (CB/NRDA) settlement, an estuarine shoreline wetland restoration project on Middle Waterway within the City of Tacoma and Commencement Bay. The project will create new habitat, enhance existing habitat, buffer both new and existing habitat, and provide public access for education and passive recreation. The project has been designed for the specific and single purpose of enhancing and expanding estuarine wetland habitat. This site is designated as "M-2" in the CB/NRDA Trustees' Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Restoration Plan (1997).

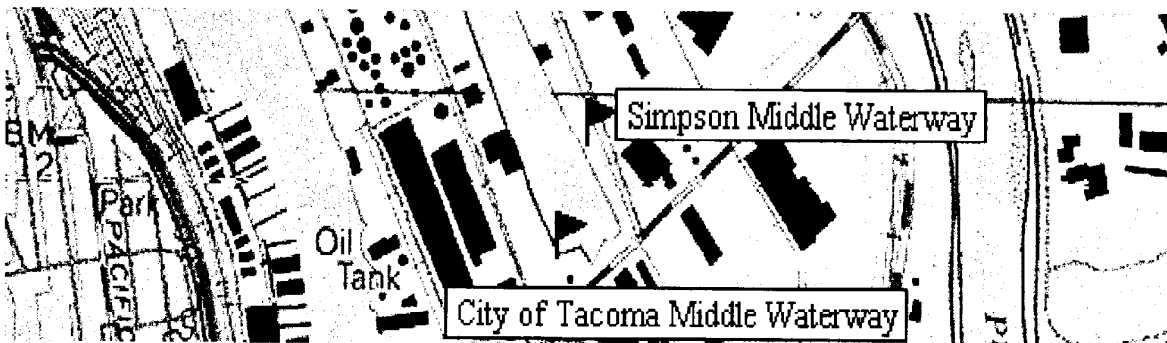
GOALS:

1. Demonstrate the viability of reclaiming former industrial shorelines for estuarine intertidal habitat.
2. Restore and enhance estuarine habitat for juvenile salmonids, particularly chinook, pink, and chum salmon originating in the Puyallup River system.
3. Provide, in perpetuity, increased emergent, intertidal wetland habitat for wetland-dependent species in the lower Puyallup River Estuary, and as a source for the export of recyclable marsh detritus.
4. Provide habitat linkages to and between nearby estuarine intertidal mudflat and marsh habitats.
5. Increase awareness of the desirability of additional restoration efforts within Middle Waterway, one of the largest tracts of intertidal mudflat remaining in Commencement Bay.
6. Complement and protect the Natural Resources Trustees/Simpson Middle Waterway restoration project and the existing tideflats through the conversion of industrial shoreline property to habitat.
7. Provide an opportunity to investigate the viability of habitat in an urban estuarine environment.
8. Provide a non-intrusive environmental education/public access opportunity in close proximity to the city center to increase public awareness of the importance of this type of habitat within the Commencement Bay ecosystem.

OBJECTIVES:

1. The City will remove fill material from the project site and the head of Middle Waterway along the western shore.
2. The City will regrade the elevation of much of the project area to a level of +10 feet to +11 feet MLLW, the elevation at which Lyngby's sedge is found in Middle Waterway and elsewhere in the estuary.
3. If suitable, the excavated material will be used as fill in other areas of the project. Intertidal wetland and riparian habitat will be constructed along the shore while debris and other anthropogenic material will be removed from the surface of the shoreline.

PROJECT LOCATION:



**PART 1: SPECIFIC PROJECT ELEMENTS UNDER INITIAL
CONCEPT PLAN TO ACHIEVE GOAL:**

The project area includes 1.85 acres of City and State lands. On the site, the City will develop 1.05 acres of salt marsh habitat, 50% of which will be planted with native marsh vegetation appropriate for this site. An additional 0.60 acres will be developed as riparian habitat and protection buffer; another 0.20 acres will be restored to mudflat to provide a transition zone from the restored marsh to the existing relic mudflat. The City may propose during project permitting, if federal, state and tribal resources staff agree, that an area or areas of salt marsh be re-established through natural colonization in order to investigate the efficacy of natural recolonization in this shoreline or if a higher value of habitat can be achieved through an alternative expenditure.

PART 2: SCHEDULE AND STATUS REPORT:

1. The start date for this project is December 30, 1997, the date of the Consent Decree entry. Deed restrictions will be filed within 180 days of the entry of the Consent Decree or acquisition.
2. A permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be filed within 30 days of the City of Tacoma notice of exemption or approval of the shoreline/wetlands permits.
3. Application for State Water Quality Certification and Hydraulic Permit application will be filed during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' review.
4. Construction, Maintenance, Monitoring/Adaptive Management Plan will be filed with the Natural Resource Trustees within 90 days of the Corps permit application.
5. Notice of completion will be filed with the Natural Resource Trustees within 300 days of the approval of permits and plans.
6. Tasks include:
 - a. Baseline Habitat Data Collection
 - b. Preliminary Design
 - c. Shoreline/Wetlands Permit Applications
 - d. Deed Restriction filing
 - e. Shoreline/Wetland Permit Review
 - f. City Shoreline/Wetland Permit approval
 - g. State Shoreline Permit Approval
 - h. Corps of Engineers' Permit Review
 - i. Final Design
 - j. Construction, Maintenance, Monitoring/Adaptive Management Plan drafting/approval
 - k. Bid and Contract
 - l. Construction oversight
 - m. Monitoring

How can the public stay informed and be involved?

Public participation is an important component of restoration planning by helping the Trustees select and shape restoration projects. You are encouraged to become involved in the restoration planning process because the natural resources in Commencement Bay are your resources. The CB/NRDA Trustees hold quarterly public meetings. If you have questions or would like to be on a mailing list to receive notice of opportunities to participate, please contact:

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Public notices and meetings will also be announced at <http://www.darcnw.noaa.gov/cb.htm>.
Project Plans (Attachments to the Consent Decree) may also be downloaded from this site.
